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Signature

Date

March 5, 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Barbara Vasquez et al.
Applic. No. : 10/062,942
Filed : January 31, 2002
Title : Method of Applying a Bottom Surface Protective Coating to a Wafer, and Wafer Dicing Method
Examiner : Angel Roman
Group Art Unit : 2812

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SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE

MAR 5 2003

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,
Washington, D. C. 20231

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Sir:

The following remarks are submitted in response to the Office Action dated October 7, 2002 in the above-identified application, supplemental to the Amendment filed January 13, 2003.

Remarks:

Applicants submit an executed Declaration under Rule 131 in the above-identified application for consideration by the Examiner.

The Declaration establishes that the claimed invention of the above-identified application was reduced to practice and/or conceived prior to August 30, 2001.

The Sugino et al. reference U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0055238 A1 (herein referred to as "Sugino") was cited by the Examiner in the rejection of claims 1-7 of the instant application. Sugino has a U.S. filing date of August 30, 2001.

Since the claimed invention of the instant application was made prior to Sugino's August 30, 2001 filing date, as evidenced by the Rule 131 Declaration enclosed herewith, Sugino is not available as a reference against the claimed invention of the instant application. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of the claims 1-7.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-7 are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

LAURENCE A. GREENBERG
REG. NO. 29,308


For Applicants

FDP/tk

March 5, 2003

Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.
Post Office Box 2480
Hollywood, FL 33022-2480
Tel: (954) 925-1100
Fax: (954) 925-1101